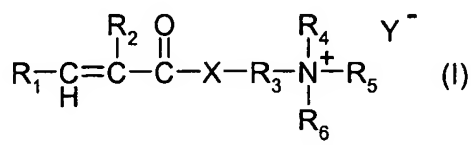


In the Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A fabric softener composition comprising  
a fabric softener component or a mixture of fabric softener components and  
at least one polymer formed from the polymerisation of
- a) a water soluble ethylenically unsaturated monomer or blend of monomers comprising at least one cationic monomer selected from the group consisting of diallyl dialkyl ammonium halides and compounds according to formula (I)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

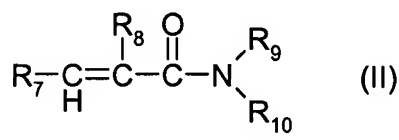
R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkylene,

R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub> and R<sub>6</sub> signify independently from each other hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

X signifies -O- or -NH- and

Y signifies Cl; Br; I; hydrogensulphate or methosulfate

and/or at least one non-ionic monomer of formula (II)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl, and

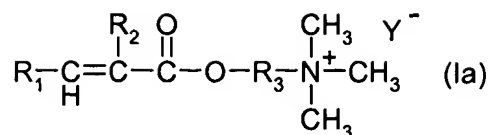
R<sub>9</sub> and R<sub>10</sub> signify independently from each other hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>alkyl,

- b) ~~optionally~~ at least one cross-linking agent in an amount of less than 5 ppm by the weight of component a) and
- c) optionally at least one chain transfer agent,
- and wherein the cationic polymer in the form of particles has an average particle size of more than  
10µm  
with the proviso that

(i) if the polymer is a cationic homopolymer then the amount of the crosslinking agent is always more than 0 ppm.

2. **(currently amended)** ~~Aqueous~~ Fabric softener composition **[[s]]** according to claim 1 wherein the polymer has a size of more than **[[10]]** 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .
3. **(cancelled)**
4. **(currently amended)** ~~Aqueous~~ Fabric softener composition **[[s]]** according to claim 1 wherein the polymer has a size of from 100 $\mu\text{m}$  and up to 1000 $\mu\text{m}$ .
5. **(cancelled)**
6. **(previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1 wherein the polymer is added to the compositions in the form of beads.
7. **(withdrawn)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a cationic homopolymer.
8. **(withdrawn)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the polymer is a non-ionic homopolymer.
9. **(cancelled)**
10. **(previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein component a) comprises 35 to 95 wt-% of at least one cationic monomer and 5 – 65 wt-% of at least one non-ionic monomer, based on the total weight of the polymer.
- 11-12. **(cancelled)**

- 13. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers.
- 14. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent of component b) is selected from the group consisting of tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid and N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide.
- 15. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent(s) c) is (are) selected from mercaptans; malic acid, lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites.
- 16. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the chain transfer agent c) is present in a range of from 0 to 1000 ppm based on the component a).
- 17. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the compositions comprise 0.005 to 15 % by weight of the polymer.
- 18. (previously presented)** Fabric softener composition according to claim 1, wherein the fabric softener components are selected from cationic quaternary ammonium salts, tertiary fatty amines having at least one C<sub>8</sub> to C<sub>30</sub> alkyl chains, carboxylic acids having 8 to 30 carbons atoms and one carboxylic group per molecule, esters of polyhydric alcohols, fatty alcohols, ethoxylated fatty alcohols, alkylphenols, ethoxylated alkylphenols, ethoxylated fatty amines, ethoxylated monoglycerides, ethoxylated diglycerides, mineral oils and polyols.
- 19. (withdrawn)** A liquid fabric softener composition according to claim 1 comprising:
- A) 0.5 to 50 wt %, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
  - B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one homo- and/or copolymer formed from the polymerisation of
    - a) at least one monomer of formula (Ia)



wherein

R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

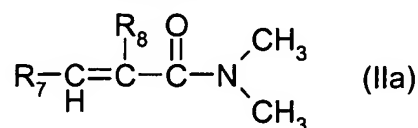
R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkylene and

Y signifies Cl; Br or I, and

- b) at least one cross-linking agent selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of more than 0 ppm and less than 5 ppm based on the component a), and optionally at least one chain transfer agent selected from mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, based on component a) with the proviso that if the polymer is a homopolymer, then the amount of the crosslinking agent is always more than 0 ppm;
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
  - ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
  - iii) mixtures thereof; and
- F) water to 100 %.
20. **(withdrawn)** A liquid fabric softener composition according to claim 1 comprising:
- A) 0.5 to 50 wt %, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener component or components;

- B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one homo- and/or copolymer formed from the polymerisation of

a) at least one monomer of formula (IIa)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl, and

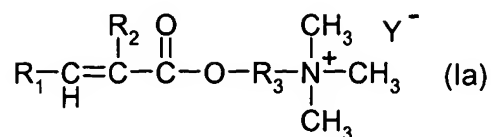
R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen; methyl or ethyl,

- b) optionally at least one cross-linking agent selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of less than 5 ppm based on the component a), and
- c) optionally at least one chain transfer agent selected from mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, based on component a);
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives;
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,
  - ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
  - iii) mixtures thereof; and
- F) water to 100 %.

**21. (currently amended)** A liquid fabric softener composition according to claim 1 comprising:

- A) 0.5 to 50 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of the fabric softener;
- B) 0.001 to 15 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of at least one copolymer formed from the polymerisation of

- a) 5 – 95 wt-%, based on the on the total weight of the copolymer, of at least one monomer of formula (Ia)



wherein

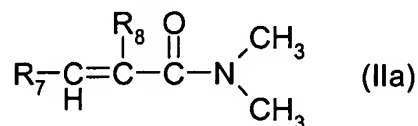
R<sub>1</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>2</sub> signifies hydrogen or methyl,

R<sub>3</sub> signifies C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>2</sub>alkylene and

Y signifies Cl; Br or I, and

- b) 5 – 95 wt-%, based on the total weight of the copolymer, of at least one monomer of formula (IIa)



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> signifies is hydrogen or methyl, and

R<sub>8</sub> signifies hydrogen; methyl or ethyl,

- c) ~~optionally~~ a cross-linking agent or a mixture of cross-linking agents selected from divinyl benzene; tetra allyl ammonium chloride; allyl acrylates and methacrylates; diacrylates and dimethacrylates of glycols and polyglycols; butadiene; 1,7-octadiene; allyl-acrylamides and allyl-methacrylamides; bisacrylamidoacetic acid; N,N'-methylene-bisacrylamide and polyol polyallylethers in an amount of less than 5 ppm based on component a), and
- d) ~~optionally~~ at least one chain transfer agent selected from mercaptans; malic acid; lactic acid; formic acid; isopropanol and hypophosphites in an amount of 0 – 1000 ppm, based on component a);
- C) 0 to 20 wt-%, based on the total weight of the composition, of customary additives; and
- D) 0 to 5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, of a perfume;
- E) 0 to 0.5 wt-%, based in the total weight of the composition, a component capable of sequestering metal ions and selected from the group consisting of:
- i) chelating components selected from the group consisting of amino carboxylic acids, organo aminophosphonic acid components, and mixtures thereof,

- ii) polycarboxylic building components, other than those defined under i) as chelating components, comprising at least two carboxylic radicals separated from each other by not more than two carbon atoms, and,
  - iii) mixtures thereof; and
- F) water to 100 %.

22. (cancelled).

23. (new) Fabric softener composition according to claim 19 wherein the polymer has a size of more than 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .

24. (new) Fabric softener composition according to claim 20 wherein the polymer has a size of more than 50  $\mu\text{m}$

25. (new) Fabric softener composition according to claim 21 wherein the polymer has a size of more than 50  $\mu\text{m}$